M. L.

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Salem Peace Society (Salem,
Ind.)
Minutes of the Salem Peace
Society, 1818-1826

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Washington County, Indiana

MINUTES OF THE SALEM PEACE SOCIETY 1818-1826

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At a meeting of a number of the Citizens of Washington County State of Indiana, at Friends Meeting House at Blue River the 19th of the 12th Mo. (December) 1818. After being met proceed to appoint Willis McCoy, Chairman & Benjamin Albertson Secretary. The following Introductory Piece being produced was ordered to be Read — Which is as follows (to Wit) —

1781067

Some Considerations on the Expediency of the Institution of a Peace Society; Humbly offered to the Serious attention of the Lovers of Peace, in the State of Indiana —

When our minds are turned Seriously to View the direful Effects of War, wherein not only many thousands of Souls have been precipitated into an awfull eternity, but innumerable sufferings and great Calamity have been brought upon many who were Innocent, what man not devoid of the tender feelings of Humanity, or that hath any regard for Religion & morality, who will not yet his mind Impressed with Sorrow, in Considering the deplorable Condition of mankind So frequently engaged in destroying one another; and will he not be induced to Pray, Shall the Sword devour forever? — Shall the Situation of the human family in this Respect never be meliorated? — Can there be no method adopted for the Composing of differences & Settling disputes between Nations as well as Individuals, without recurring to Weapons of death? Is it impossible for the evil Passions

Passions in Rational Creatures as Covetousness, Pride, Envy, Hatred & Revenge to be Subjugated so far, that the Spirit of Love & a Pacific disposition may Predominate; We have no doubt of the Possibility of this, but believe, but believe that were Individuals and Nations actuated by the pure principle of Love they would be willing to use their Efforts for the promotion & encouragement of Peace on Earth & good Will to men; that the Occasions of War may be Removed and the blessings of Peace enjoyed.

Now as it hath pleased the Almighty Superintendant of the universe to Illuminate the understanding of many (which we mention with Reverence and Gratitude) whereby they see in a clear point of view the evils of War, and Several Peace Societies have been Recently formed of divers respectable Citizens of the United States, in order to unite in laboring that Peace & Harmony may be preserved; Therefor Fellow Citizens of this State, not only such as believe that all Wars are Contrary to the Precepts of the Gospel, but also those who think that Defensive War only is Wrong, We desire your attention may be turned to this very Interesting Theme; and divesting ourselves of any Prepossion to the Contrary may Judiciously Consider Whether it doth not behove us to make a proper use of the present time of favor Wherein Prospects so animating, open with such Conspicuity, and from a Sincere desire that the Welfare & happiness of

of the human Race may be promoted to institute a Peace Society in this State, for purposes similar to those of others already Organized, Can this be incompatible with Sound Policy?

Although those who engage in this good Work, may meet with some Opposition, yet those that are Willing to be Instrumental according to their Capacities under divine Providence, in diffusing a Pacific principle, & under a Sense of duty, use their best Efforts that Love, Peace, & Harmony may prevail amongst mankind, — We believe such will recieve the Reward of Peace in their own minds, and Participate of the Blessings granted to the Peace Makers.

Of Which the Meeting approves, & appoints Levi Munden, Willis Colby, Samuel Lindley, Matthew Coffin, Joseph Moore, Nathan Trueblood, Robert Dennis, Joenes White, Benjamin Allison William Hobbs & Thomas Thomson to prepare a Form of Constitution, for the Salem Indiana Peace Society & Produce to next Meeting — On Motion the meeting adjourns until the 2nd Seventh day in next month at the 12th Hour at the Court House in the Town of Salem, at Which time & place all those who are friendly to the above institution are Invited to attend, The Secretary is directed to have the above Published in the Salem Jocsin —

by order
Benj'n Allenton Sec'y

Salem Indiana January the 9th 1819

At a Meeting met agreeable to adjournment the Committee appointed at last meeting to prepare an Essay of Constitution for the Salem Indiana Peace Society, Produced the following (To Wit) Constitution of the Salem Indiana Peace Society, —

We the Subscribers in forming this Society, think proper to make the following Concise Declaration of our motives & Objects. —

Having been impressed by Considering the manifold Evils & tremendous Calamities of Public War, We earnestly wish that men may be brought to View it in a just light, clearly to see its bad influence, on the Political moral & Religious of Communities and its opposition to the design & Spirit of the Gospel; and that the true dignity and Happiness of a People result from Impartial Justice towards all Nations, and the Spirit & Virtues of Peace. —

Various facts and Considerations have Conspired in exciting a hope that a change may be effected in public Sentiment, and a more happy State of Society introduced, —

We believe that a majority of the People in Civilized Countries, when free from party passions & prejudices, have such an aversion to public Hostilities that they would Rejoice if any plan could be devised which would both secure their

their Rights and absolve them from the burthens & Sufferings of War, —

The late Treaty of Peace between Great Britain and the United States has suggested the Practicability of such a plan, and given us an admirable lesson on the subject, —

For this ray of Pacific light we are grateful and hope it will be like "the Shining light which Shineth more & more unto the perfect day," — It is clear that every popular Custom must depend on public opinion, and it appears from History that many Customs which were formerly Considered as honorable, useful & even necessary, have been abolished, as inhuman & Barbarous, and are now Regarded with detestation & Horror, —

The attention of the European Nations lately appears to be unusually excited to the guilt and miseries of War; and with Joy we learn that Peace Societies are Established on the other Side of the atlantic as well as in the United States, — A Cooperation in different Countries is Joyfully anticipated in this great work of promoting peace on earth, and good will among men, —

We intend that this Society shall be Established on such principles as to embrace the friends of Peace tho they may differ in Sentiment on the question whether War be not in all Cases Prohibited by the Gospel, and may also differ in opinion

opinions on these Subjects, —

We wish to promote the Cause of peace by such means which all Christians must approve; — by Exhibiting with Clearness the pacific nature of the Gospel, and by turning the attention of the Community to the native Spirit, Causes & effects of War, — We hope that by the Concurrence of the friends of Peace in all Nations, and by the gradual dissemination of the Christian World, a Pacific Spirit may be Communicated to Governments; — and that in this way under the divine Blessing the Occasions of War, and the necessity of its practice will be Constantly diminishing till it shall be Regarded by all Christians with the same horror, with which we now look back on the exploded & barbarous Customs of former ages, —

On these principles, and with these hopes we adopt the following Articles, —

Article, 1st — The name of this Society shall be the Salem (Indiana) Peace Society, —

" 2nd — The Government of this Society shall Consist of a President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Six Trustees, who shall be annually Chosen, three of whom shall Constitute a Quorum, —

" 3rd — The funds of this Society shall be under the direction of the Officers, to be employed for the diffusion of Light on the Subject of War & in cultivating the Principles & Spirit

Spirit of Peace — The Officers shall have Power to appoint an Executive Committee and Counsellors to advise with the Corresponding Secretary & to make Regulations for the dispatch of business. —

Article 4th — No book or tract shall be published Without its being approved by a majority of the members present at a Quarterly or Annual Meeting. —

5th — Each Subscriber of One Dollar annually Shall be a member. —

6th — All donations to the Society Shall be Recorded; and each member of the Society may receive one half his annual Subscription in Such books or tracts as the Officers Shall approve, and at the lowest prices of the Society. —

7th — The Society Shall meet once in every three months and may be Convened by order of the President at other times, When the Officers Shall deem it necessary; and Reports Shall be made to the Society by the Trustees & Treasurer annually on the 2d Saturday of the first month in each year; and in Case of the absence of the President at any Meeting of the Society, the members present Shall have power to Choose Another to officiate as President Pro. Tempore.

8th — This Society will encourage the forming of Similar Societies, in other places by the dispersion of tracts, by Correspondences, and

and by other suitable means; they will also encourage mutual aid and Cooperation among all the friends of Peace of every denomination.

6th Any body of men ten or upwards in number living too remote to attend our Quarterly Meeting may be a Branch of this by representing the State of their to this annually.

10th No change in the objects of the Society shall ever be made; but the articles may be amended and new articles may be added as occasion shall require; provided that no alteration be made except at their Regular Annual meeting, and by the consent of two thirds of the members who may be then present.

Signed on behalf of the Committee
By Daniel Cheerstow Clk

Which after being repeatedly deliberately Read was approved of, and the following Persons subscribe their names as members thereof.

Matthew Coffin
Levi Munden
David Denny
Samuel Liddy
Zechariah Dixon
Jonas White
William Hobbs
William Trueblood
Benoni Morris
Joseph Moon

Isaac Stanley
John Brassleton
Joel Brown
John S Chawner
James Trueblood Junr
Micah Irwby
Henry Wilson
William R Denny
Joshua Trueblood
Jehosaphat Morris
Nathan Trueblood
Willis McCoy
Benjamin Albertson
William Hodgin
Elisha Hobbs
Aaron Morris
Joshua Tatlock
James White
Ebenezer Patrick
Jacob Cox
Silas Tatlock
Jonathan Lyon
Elijah Rawley
Beebee Booth
John Arnold
Thomas Paist
Burr Bradley
Aaron Cox
Joseph Nixon
John Cox
Thomas Lindley Junr
William Lindley Junr
James Denny
James R Higgins
Caleb White
James Coffin
Robert Dennis
Joshua Crew
Thomas Lindley 2d

Who after being Called together proceed to Appoint Beebee Booth President, Nathan Trueblood Treasurer, Benjamin Albertson Recording Secretary & Burr Bradley Corresponding Secretary, — Matthew Coffin, David Denny William Hobbs, Jonathan Lyon, Samuel Lindley & Zachariah Nixon Trustees, Ordered that the Treasurer Procure Suitable Blank Books for the Recording Secretary & himself

Ordered that the Corresponding Secretary have this Meetings Minuits, published in the Salem Focsin together with two Hundred Copies of our Constitution printed in Hand Bills.

The Meeting adjourns until the 2nd Saturday in April next at the 12th Hour at the Court House in the Town of Salem

Ordered that the Recording Secretary have Published the time of the Setting of next Meeting in the Salem Focsin two weeks previous thereto.

Salem the 30th of January 1819

At a Meeting of the officers of the Salem Indiana Peace Society, Ordered that the Recording Secretary give information to the Corresponding Secretary that this Meeting directs him to Write to all the Peace Societies within his knowledge as also any other Societies of any kind which we deem friendly to our Institution and procure Copies of all the numbers of the friend of peace over & above the first eight numbers, & also Obtain any other Books Tracts or information otherwise We shall focus.

This Meeting adjourns until the next Emergency.

Salem (Indiana) April 10th 1819

The Society met agreeable to adjournment

Report Says all orders passed at last Meeting are Complied with

A Code of By Laws being produced for this Society, were
Read & approved by the Members present, (to Wit)
Matthew Coffin, Levi Munden, David Denny,
Samuel Lindley, William Hobbs, Joseph Moore, Joel
Brown, James Trueblood, Revd. Joshua Trueblood,
Jehosaphat Morris, Nathan Trueblood, Benjamin
Albertson, Aaron Morris, Jonathan Lyon, Elijah Bailey,
Barber Beals, Thomas Saint, Evan Bradley, Joseph
Nixon, James R. Higgins, Caleb White, Benj. Freeman,
& Which were ordered to be Recorded & are as Followes,

By Laws of the Salem Indiana Peace Society

Article 1st Our meetings shall be held open for all who behave Orderly to attend, though none Except members shall be permitted to speak without leave of the meeting —

2nd The President shall be the Speaker & may debate but have no vote, except when a tie, in which case he shall give the Casting Vote, he shall Call to order when decorum is not observed, and shall Sign all Writings that go from the society with one of the other Secretarys

3rd The Recording Secretary shall make entrys and keep Records of all business the Society shall direct; The Corresponding Secretary shall keep Copies of all letters that he sends to other Societies, and file them together with all he Receives from them with the Recording Secretary —

4th The Trustees shall make moderate Compensation to the Secretaries for their trouble & expences

5th When any person is about to speak he shall Rise on his feet and address the Speaker, neither shall he one speak at a time, and no one shall Speak more than thrice to one Subject, without

Without leave from the meeting —

6th When a motion is made & seconded it shall be put to Vote, and a majority shall decide it.

7th The Hour appointed to meet at shall be strictly observed, at which time the President shall take his Seat and the Clerk proceed to business. — — — —

On Motion it was ordered that Levi Munden, William Hobbs & Benjamin Albertson, be appointed a Committee to draft our motives & intentions as a Society & produce to next meeting —

Ordered that the Secretary have our by Laws & the proceedings of the day published in the Jocsin — also the time of the setting of next meeting two weeks previous thereto —

On motion the meeting adjourns until the 2d Saturday in July next at the 2 Hour in the afternoon, at the Court House in the town of Salem, —

Salem July 10th 1819 —

At a meeting of the Salem (Indiana) Peace Society

The President being Absent William Hobbs was Called to the Chair as President Pro, Tem, —

The Committee Appointed last meeting produced a draft of our motives & Objects as a Society Which was read approved ordered to be recorded & Publish-ed in the Salem Jocsin (to Wit)

A Solemn declaration of the Members of the Salem (Indiana) Peace Society" Containing an explication of their motives & Objects in forming this Association —

The Institution of Peace Societies being of Recent date, we are apprehensive, that some of our fellow Citizens, for want of more explicit information, may, from a Cursory view of such an Association Conceive it to be a Phenomenon; and being moved with fear (that intellectual tyrant, to which mankind are too apt to be subservient) have brought this unpopular before their own mental tribunal, and precipitately given Judgment against it, without hearing the evidence; however we hope they have the discretion not to adopt any measures discordant with the Counsel of the wise doctor Gamaliel to the Jewish Sanhedrim, the purport of which was — If that Counsel or work were of men it would Come to nought (as had been the Case in divers instances) but if its Origin was of the divine power, the might of man Could not overthrow it; therefor he adviseth, to let those men alone, lest perhaps they (that is the persecutors) should be found even opposing Omnipotence.

We deem it expedient to announce to the public, a Succinct but unequivocal delineation of the motives of our Institution; also the Object we have in View, and the means we are engaged to use.

We Solimly declare, that in this Case We are free from any private Sinister or Selfish Views; but being impressed with a deep Conviction that there is a great deviation from the Spirit of Christianity, which is a Spirit of Mercy, peace and kind affection; and being Sorrowfully affected by the accumulated Miseries & great devastations which War has spread over the fairest, most fruit-

full

peacefull and enlightened Regions of the earth;
and at the same time encouraged by many decisive
proofs of the Revival of Pure & genuine benevolent
principles among Christian Nations, We have formed
this Association with the Solemn & deliberate purpose
of Cooperating with the Philanthropists of this and
other Countries, in endeavoring to promote the
Cause of Peace & Charity; that War may be Strip-
-ped of its false glory, and different Communities
may be united in the bonds of Amity & mutual
good Will. We are sensible that this Object is Chiefly
to be accomplished by a Silent and gradual in-
-fluence on the minds of men; Accordingly we
intend to limit our Operations to the Circulation
of usefull Treatises in which the Pacific Spirit
of Religion has been exhibited with Clearness, &
we hope with Success. - In using these means it
becomes necessary for the Society to have some Funds,
which are to be employed for the diffusion of light on
the Subject of War, and in the Cultivating the prin-
-ciples and Spirit of peace, agreeably to the Constitu-
-tion we have adopted. - On this Subject we belong
to no Sect, no party. As lovers of our Country, as friends
of mankind with the Spirit of peace in our
breasts and with a deep impression of the miseries
of War, We are Solicitous that the Effusion of hu-
-man blood by human hands may be prevented,
and that men may be recalled to the Conviction that
they are Brethren. - On the same principles & for the
same benevolent purposes peace Societies are
established in several of the United States; also
several are formed in great Britain. - These
Societies with the many others which are in

in existence for pious & humane purposes, it is believed may be auxiliary to each other, in promoting the Cause of humanity, and in diffusing the principles of love, peace and amity, so essential to the true happiness of mankind.— Among the members of the Massachusetts Peace Society there are many respectable Characters, of which there are Ninety Six Ministers of the Gospel of different denominations. The Prince Galitzin of Russia, and Thomas Jefferson of Virginia (former President of the United States).— Further we are authorized to State, that several of the illustrious powers of Europe have united in a Solemn league, wherein they declare before "the Universe their unwavering determination to adopt for the only Rule of their Conduct, both in the administration of their respective States, & in their political Relation with every other Government, the precepts of Christianity, the precepts of Justice, of Charity and Peace". —

These facts, with others which are apparent, indicate that, through the interposition of divine Providence, the influence of the Gospel of Peace is progressing amongst men in various Stations, & in different parts of the World; and we are induced to hope, that, by the well directed efforts of the friends of peace under the blessing of Heaven, a Change in public Sentiment may be effected, which shall become Conspicuous in the moral Conduct of Governments to the dereliction of War & Violence, and the establishment of peace on earth and good will to our fellow Creatures. — All sanguinary Customs, Hostile Passions, Violence, War & Revenge, are

are evidently incompatible with the precepts of the Messiah, Who came not to destroy mens lives but to save them — Therefore We are Solicitous that all who assume the Character of Christians, may by their conduct evince, that in meekness & love, they are true followers of him, whom we acknowledge to be the author of our faith; and in particular that the ministers of the Gospel of every Religious denomination (whose influence with the members of the Community is so universally acknowledged) may through divine aid be Preachers of Righteousness, both by precept & example, and Ministers of peace by Jesus Christ; Solemnly Considering the importance of their Vocation, and Remembering their responsibility, they may avoid that glaring inconsistency of holding forth the design of the Gospel for the Salvation of Repenting Sinners, and yet encourage a Spirit of War, diametrically opposite to the Spirit of the Gospel, Which is that of love, peace and harmony.

William Hobbs, President Pro Tem
Benj.ª Albertson Rec. Sec.ʸ

The meeting adjourns until the 2.ⁿᵈ Saturday of October next at 2 o'Clock P.M. which the Secretary is directed to have published in the Salem Gazette three weeks previous thereto.

Salem October the 9.ᵗʰ 1819

At a meeting of the Salem (Indiana) Peace Society held by the Boards of the Corresponding Secretary from the Massachusetts Pilgrim County Ohio Peace Society to form a Memorial to Congress, David Penne & Benjamin Albertson are appointed to obtain Subscribers thereto & forward the same to Congress

12 to Dec.r Bundy of Lebanon
Also received from the Massachusetts Peace Society
five numbers of the Friends of Peace. 13, 14. 15.
16, & 17. likewise their Constitution & annual
report accompanied by letters of correspondence
26 &c
Also from Warren Ohio Peace Society their annual
report & Constitution & letters of Correspondence
&c &c

Salem (Indiana) October 22.nd 1819
At a meeting of the officers of the Salem (Indiana)
Peace Society
Ordered that the Treasurer Purchase 50 copies of
the 2.nd 4 numbers of the Friend of Peace, William
Hobbs & David Denny are appointed to distribute
the same
Ordered that the Corresponding Secretary inform
the Ohio Peace Society that they publish 9.
10. 11. & 12 of the Friend of Peace that we agree
to take 150 Copys.
William Hobbs & Matthew Coffin are appointed
to prepare an annual report & produce to next
meeting of the Society
This meeting adjourns until the next emmergency

Salem January the 8.th 1820.
At a meeting of the Salem Indiana Peace Society
The Committee appointed &c to produce an Annual
Report to Wit) "First Report of the Trustees of the Salem
(Ind.a) Peace Society made at their annual meeting
the 8.th of January 1820"
It being needful for us to render some account at
this time of our proceedings since our Appointe

appointment, in respect to our exertions in the applica-
tion of the means proposed by the Society, for the ad-
vancing of the great Cause for which we are associated
and also some information of our prospects; This duty
we freely perform as far as is within the sphere of our
Capacity. — We have attended to the important part of
the Service we have been entrusted with; but the
Funds of the Society being small when compared with
their Object, much more cannot reasonably be expected
than evidence of fidelity in the use of such means
as have been at our disposal, and to exhibit such
facts as may be adapted to excite more liberal
Patronage & more powerfull exertions — We have
purchased 50 Copies of the 2d. 4 Numbers of the
Friend of Peace, which have been distributed
amongst the Members of the Society, and the
Governor, Lieutenant Governor and the Supreme
Judges of this State to each a Copy, and some have
been sent into Kentucky; a number of Copies
of the Constitution of our Society also a concise
declaration of our Motives & Object in this Asso-
ciation have been published. — The expenses of
these together with postage of letters and pamphlets
Received by our Corresponding Secretary in behalf of
the Society have taken Considerable of the Money
which was in Fund, yet a small ballance rem-
ains in the hands of the Treasurer. — Although
we Consider all that we have yet been able to
effect, but a little Compared with what our
Brethren the Friends of peace have done in
Several Others of the United States, and also in
Great Britain, yet we hope that from the

Who devote their peace to this precious Cause will lose their Reward of inward peace. —

By accounts received from other peace Societies, the prospect is very encouraging; those which have been associated a considerable time are still increasing, and new ~~ones~~ peace Societies forming, one of which has lately been formed in Raleigh North Carolina, divers of the mem=bers whereof are said to be very respectable Cha=racters, also one lately formed at Henry Creek County in this State. — Numerous pub=lications have been exhibited on both sides of the Atlantic, adopted to the disseminating of the prin=ciples of peace on Earth and good Will to men, which there is reason to believe have much attrac=ted public attention. — In an extract from a letter of an Intelligent writer appears the following Remark viz — The unreasonable and unchristian Custom of War, was perhaps never so generally a Subject of Consideration as at the present time, and it should seem that Intelli=gent accountable beings, have only to examine the question fairly, to become the friends of peace. —

In this View we may be encouraged to hope that from the Standard of Strife & Misery, not only Individuals but Nations will flee, to Rally under the Banner of good Will and love. —

We believe there are many respectable Citizens who

who have not yet taken an active part in this work that are well wishers to the cause; and we trust, as the illuminating influence of the Gospel of Peace shall more generally spread and prevail amongst mankind, that the doubts which many have entertained of success will vanish in the bosom of evidence, and that they will see it in a clear point of view, to be their duty to lend their aid toward the advancement of so good a cause.—

One Publication in opposition to the object of peace societies has appeared, but the author had not the confidence to expose his proper name, and his opinions were so erroneous & false, and so evidently exhibited his confusion, that we did not deem it worthy of a particular answer.— From accounts well authenticated it appears that notwithstanding the opposition arising from the prejudices of education & custom the prospect is very encouraging.—

We are informed that are two peace societies in London, with a considerable number of auxiliaries in different parts of the Kingdom also one in Scotland and that they have published many thousands of tracts on the subject of universal peace, some of which have been translated into the Persian Language.— There are many peace societies organized in the United States and yet increase.— To these may be added a Conference of the Methodist Reformed Church in the State of New York which has assumed the character of a peace society.—

Bible Societies which have for their object to place in

in the bosoms of the poor and the destitute the Blessed instructions of the Gospel; We consider this to be Conducive to the great end which we propose, that of disseminating the principle of love and peace which the doctrines of the Gospel inculcate. — Should the friends of peace be encouraged to persevere in this good work; for we believe that the Spirit of the Gospel which is that of peace on earth good will "toward men" by the blessing and kind providence of him who is the infinite source of pure Love (without whose aid the efforts of men are ineffectual) will more & more spread & prevail to the completion of those ancient Prophecies, "He shall Judge among the Nations & shall Rebuke many people; and they shall beat their Swords into Plough Shares, and their Spears into pruning Hooks; Nation shall not lift up Sword against Nation, neither shall they learn War any more." Isaiah II. 4 Micah IV. 3

We have no doubt of the accomplishment of this for the word of Jehovah is ever sure. —

Which was read approved and 500 Copies directed to be printed together with the Constitution in form of a Pamphlet Doctor B. Bradley & William Hobbs are appointed to attend that Service, —

The Treasurer produced an account which was Satisfactory. —

The by Laws being revised were approved and

and appear as follows — to wit, —

1st Our meetings shall be held open for all who be disposed to attend, the more except members shall be permitted to speak without leave of the meeting. —

2nd The President shall be speaker & may debate but have no vote except when so, in which case he shall give the casting vote, he shall call to order when decorum is not observed & sign all writing going forth from our Quarterly or Monthly meetings with the Recording Secretary and at the request of any one of the Trustees he shall call a meeting of the officers. —

3rd The Recording Secretary shall make entrys & keep Records of all business the Society may direct, the Corresponding Secretary shall keep Copys of all letters sent by him to other Societies & keep a regular file of them with those he receives, for the inspection of the Trustees

4th The Trustees shall make moderate compensation to the Secretaries for their trouble & expence. —

5th When any person is about to speak he shall rise on his feet & address the Speaker, neither shall but one speak at a time, & no one shall speak more than three times to one subject, without leave of the meeting. —

6th When a motion is made & seconded & at proper time & allowed for debate it shall be put to vote & a majority shall always Carry.

7th The hour appointed to meet shall be strictly observed, at which time the President if there shall take his seat & the Secretary proceed to business) but if not present the Secretary shall open the meeting after which they shall choose a President Pro tem.

At an Election of Officers for the following years were Chosen for the present year (to wit)

Evelee Booth President

Nathan Price Assistant Treasurer

Benjamin Albertson Recording Secretary

Isaac Bradley Corresponding Secretary

Mathew Coffin, David Denny, William Hobbs, Jonathan Lyon, Samuel Lindley & Zachariah Dixon Trustees

Previous to this meeting the following additional persons were received Members of this Society (to wit)

William Cox, William Reddick, Solomon Reddick, Benjamin Hartman, John Bray, Isaac Hollingsworth, Samuel Price, & John Bray.

Salem April the 8th 1820

At a meeting of the Salem Indiana Peace Society

The Committee appointed to have 500 Copies of the annual report & Constitution printed report its completion with, The Trustees & Other Officers of the Society are directed to distribute them among the members of the Society & elsewhere as they may deem proper

Salem July the 8th 1820

At a meeting of the Salem (Ind.a) Peace Society Ordered that the Secretary have published in the Visitor one month previous to next meeting, a request for the members generally to attend at next meeting pay in their annual installments, & receive such books & pamphlets as they are entitled to

Salem October the 11th 1820

at a meeting of the Salem (Indiana) Peace Society Ordered that Samuel Lindley & Elisha Hobbs be appointed Collectors for the society & that the Treasurer be directed to furnish them with a list of the members & the respective sums due by each

Salem January the 13th 1821

At a meeting of the Salem (Ind.a) Peace Society The President being absent David Denny was appointed President Pro tem.

The Treasurer produced an account which is as follows — viz. The accounts with the Treasurer

Hands nearly as they did last year there has been little or nothing Received or paid out — The Trustees produced an annual Report which was Satisfactory —

On Motion it was ordered that the 4th & 5th articles of the Constitution of this Society be Struck out & also that the following be inserted in the place & Steads of the 7th article (now the 5th) (to wit) 5th There Shall be an annual meeting of the Society on the 2nd Saturday of May in each Year, at which time the trustees & Treasurer Shall make Report, and the Society may be Convened at other times by order of the President when the Officers of the Society may deem it necessary, and in Case of the absence of the President at any of our meetings the members present Shall have power to Choose one to act as President Pro tem, — The next meeting (which is to be the annual meeting hereafter) to be held at Salem the 2nd Saturday of next May at 2 o Clock P.M. The meeting adjourns accordingly —

Salem In Mass. May the 12th 1821

The President being absent, Jeremiah Pinsley was Called to the Chair to act as President Protem,

The following were Elected Officers for the ensuing Year, Viz. David Denny, President, Henry Wilson Treasurer, Doc. Oliver Belding Cor. Secretary, Bethuel Rec. Secretary, James White, William Dolby, John Pinsley, Nathan Trueblood, Jacob Daniels Dixon, and

and James Trueblood Trustees

On Motion Isaac White was appointed Assistant to the Treasurer to collect what Money may be due and also to Collect what may be Subscribed by the Contribution Report

The Meeting adjourns until next meeting (Viz) the 2d Saturday of next May at 2 oClock P.M.

Salem Indiana May the 10th 1822

Report Says Collections of Funds &c agreeable to Appointment are of small amount

The Trustees produced an annual Report &c which was Read &c

John Cox is appointed to inform the Treasurer that its his duety to give a Reason for not Reporting to this Meeting Agreeable to Constitution & also to Report to next annual Meeting

The following Officers are Elected for the ensuing year to Wit David Denny President, Hiney Wilson Treasurer, Enos Bradley Cl. Secretary Benj'n Allerton Ric Secretary, Micah Newby, William Hobbs, Isaac White, Nathan Trueblood, Simon Morris & Zachariah Nixon Trustees

The Meeting adjourns untill the 2d Saturday of next May at 2 oClock P.M.

Salem Indiana May 10th 1823

At the annual Meeting of the Salem Ind'a Peace Society

The Treasurer Reports the papers were not in his possession at last Meeting & therefore no funds in his hands at this time

The Trustees produced an annual Report which was Read & Received

On Motion it was Recommended that the Officers & other members of this Society as many

many as feel a freedom to do, to open free subscriptions to raise funds in order to publish & circulate Some tracts in possession of this Society & for other uses, and also that the members of this Society be requested to pay into the hands of the Treasurer a Tax of Fifty Cents (ea) for the same purposes — Read & Read to Satisfaction the 5th annual Report of the Ohio Peace Society accompanied by a letter from their Secretary — On motion William Hobbs & Henry Wilson are a committee appointed to place in the Salem Library one Copy of the numbers of the Friends of Peace & see that the other Copys are in the hands of the Corresponding Secretary — a Report to next meeting —

The following members were Elected officers for the ensuing year —

(Viz) David Denny President
Henry Wilson Treasurer
Benjn Allistron Rec. Secretary
Silas Bradley Cor. Secretary
Micah Harvey
William Hobbs
Jonas White
Nathan Truebood
Dennis Morris
Joseph Moore
} Trustees

The meeting adjourned until 2nd Saturday of next to meet at 2 o'clock P.M. —

Salem Indiana May 15th 1824

at the annual meeting of the Salem Indiana Peace Society

The President being absent Nathan Trueblood was called to the Chair to act as President Pro. tem.

The Committee appointed to place in the Salem Library one Copy of the Friends of Peace report not having complied with that Committee is continued & to report to a future meeting of this Society

It appears by the Treasurers report that this Society is now behind in paying demands about seven Dollars the Members are still desired to pay in the sum of Fifty Cents each agreeable to last years Request to meet the present demands & for publishing the Pamphlets as proposed at last annual Meeting

The Trustees presented an annual report which was Satisfactory

The following Officers were Elected for the ensuing year

(To wit) David Denny President
Henry Wilson Treasurer
Benj. Hollingsworth Rec. Secretary
Silas Bradley Cor. Secretary
Willis McCoy
Micah Mosby
William Hobbs
James White
Nathan Trueblood
Joseph Moore

} Trustees

The meeting adjourns until the 2d Saturday of next May. 12 oClock Pell

Salem Indiana May 4th 1826

The annual meeting of the Salem Ia. Peace Society not being generally by reason of unfavorable weather —

Therefor some members met in May 1826 & adjourned to the 15th July 2, Oclock P.M. in order that notice might be given of the annual on that day —

Salem Indiana July 15th 1826

At a meeting of the Salem Indiana Peace Society —

The following Officers were Elected for the present year (Namely) David Denny President

Henry McAllenson Treasurer

Benj McAllenson Rec Secretary

Esther Bradley Cor do

Micah Neely
William Hobbs
Jonas McPike
Nathan Trueblood
Joseph Moore
Jeremiah Morris

Trustees

Ordered that every member paying one Dollar annually shall be entitled to four numbers of the Friend of Peace, the amount of money & Books obtained thereby over & above 4 numbers to belong to the Society for distribution

William Hobbs is appointed to receive Subscriptions & Money

A Meeting of the Officers ordered 1st Monday in May

The general meeting adjourns to the 2d Saturday of May next at 2 Oclock P.M. —

Salem (Indiana) Peace Society Minutes

Edited by Pamela J. Bennett
*Contributed by I. George Blake**

One of the earliest peace societies in the United States originated in Salem, Washington County, Indiana, in 1819. The minutes published here record its history from the active and hopeful beginning until the summer of 1826 when these minutes terminate.

The first entry reports a preliminary meeting, late in 1818, of the Quaker founders at the Blue River Meeting House[1] a few miles from Salem, where they laid the groundwork for the society. The next meeting on January 9, 1819, was a general meeting to which the public—"all those who are friendly to the above institution"—was invited. At this time, the constitution for the society was read and subscribed to by forty-nine men, and officers were appointed. Less than two weeks later the officers met and began efforts to communicate with other societies and to procure more copies of the *Friend of Peace*[2] and other relevant literature. At succeeding meetings bylaws were adopted, a formal explication of motives and goals was formulated, circulation of peace materials was promoted, and annual reports[3] of activities were duly produced by the trustees and ordered printed for distribution. Until May, 1821, the society met quarterly according to its constitution; thereafter meetings were held annually in May. The later minutes—usually brief and perfunctory—reflect an apparent dwindling of interest of the majority of the members and a great difficulty in obtaining funds.[4] It is impossible to say

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* I. George Blake is a professor of history at Franklin College, Indiana.

[1] The Blue River Monthly Meeting was established in July, 1815. The meeting house was "completed in 1816, on land donated by Matthew Coffin." Warder W. Stevens, *Centennial History of Washington County, Indiana* (Indianapolis, 1916), 363. See also B. C. Hobbs, *Autobiography of William Hobbs* (Indiana Quaker Records, Indianapolis, 1962), 8-9.

[2] The *Friend of Peace* is a periodical tract that was edited by the Reverend Noah Worcester and published by the Massachusetts Peace Society; it contains proceedings and documents of the Massachusetts society, correspondence with societies in the United States and abroad, and essays and debates about peace. The individual numbers are not dated, but the *Union List of Serials* lists Volumes I through IV published in Boston from 1815 to 1827. There seem to be twelve numbers per volume. Presumably this magazine, referred to often in the Salem Peace Society minutes, was reprinted and distributed by the Warren County, Ohio, Peace Society; according to the *Union List of Serials* Volumes I through II, Numbers i-viii, were published in Cincinnati from 1817 to 1818.

[3] See the Appendix to this document, page 318, where the second, fourth, fifth, and eighth annual reports are printed.

[4] Several causes for this change can be postulated. Most general is the widespread depression during the late teens and early twenties. More closely allied is a $4 tax levied by county commissioners in 1822 on men who, for reasons of conscience, "refused to muster with the militia, or take part in any warlike matters." Many of the men who originally subscribed to the society constitution paid the assessment. Stevens, *Centennial History of Washington County, Indiana,* 205-206. The general lack of interest during the later years of the society was possibly a result, too, of dissension within the Quaker community over the Hicksite doctrines. Hobbs, *Autobiography of William Hobbs,* 12-16.

how long the society continued and what it really accomplished, but the available minutes provide an interesting example of the general trend of peace societies during the early nineteenth century.

The rise of these societies[5] is attributed to the disillusionment and horror which became prevalent with the destructive and costly warfare of the French Revolution, the Napoleonic Wars, and the War of 1812. Various publications against war appeared in the United States and Great Britain during these years, but the most influential was the *Solemn Review of the Custom of War*[6] by the Reverend Noah Worcester, a Quaker from Brighton, Massachusetts. This work was translated often and circulated widely in Europe as well as in Great Britain and the United States. It is a masterfully written condemnation of war and the men who make war possible or even necessary to the life of a nation; much of its reasoning is encompassed by the preamble to the Salem Peace Society constitution and by the statement of motives read in December, 1818. This pamphlet and similar writings apparently helped to stimulate widespread peace activity when world events began to give men hope that peace was actually possible.

Around 1815 men envisioned a peaceful world with some hope of eventual success. The Napoleonic Wars had ended; the Holy Alliance—presumably that "solemn league" of European powers—gave great encouragement to many men who sought peace; and the United States and Great Britain ratified the Treaty of Ghent which emphasized the necessity for arbitration in conflicts between nations and which provided "an admirable lesson on the subject." And thus "the present time of favor" brought about the formation of peace societies both in the United States and abroad.

David Low Dodge founded the earliest known society in New York in August, 1815. Others soon followed: Warren County, Ohio, and Massachusetts in December, 1815, and one in Great Britain by William Allen in June, 1816, in London. Regarding their further development, Curti states: "From 1815 to 1828 American peace sentiment was marked by its local character, since the peace societies, spontaneously formed in widely separated communities, maintained independent existences. But soon they began to exchange letters with one another, and gradually something like a unified action in the interest of peace developed. Until the formation of the American Peace Society in 1828, however, the story is largely the story of local, independent organizations."[7] The fourth annual report of the Massachusetts Peace Society states that "from the information received, there are now

[5] For more explicit information on the peace movement—especially in America—the following books are quite helpful: Merle E. Curti, *The American Peace Crusade, 1815-1860* (Durham, 1929); W. Freeman Galpin, *Pioneering for Peace* (Syracuse, 1933). The general content of this introduction is derived from these sources, and only specific references are cited.

[6] This book was originally published in Boston in 1814; there are many editions and reprints available.

[7] Curti, *The American Peace Crusade, 1815-1860,* p. 21.

in this country, besides the Massachusetts Peace Society, and its twelve Auxiliaries, 15 Peace Societies in the United States: one in Maine, one in Rhode Island, five in New York, one in North Carolina, five in Ohio, and two in Indiana."[8] Within the next few years other societies had been established in such diverse places as Connecticut, Vermont, Nova Scotia, Canada, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Scotland, Ireland, and France.

Most of the peace societies had religious connections, and the purposes and rationale of the movement were thoroughly seated in the doctrines of Christianity. Curti states that Quakers were not generally as active in the movement in the United States as in Great Britain—perhaps because of geographical diversity and other problems of organization.[9] The Salem society, however, was stimulated mainly by Quakers, and the minutes reflect that relationship in the terminology and explicit biblical allusions that are used throughout. Generally the men who were active in the movement, however, were not only religious leaders but also merchants, educators, and businessmen. Salem was apparently typical in that the prominent and established men of the community provided the impetus for the movement. William Lindley had been largely responsible for the founding of Salem, Zachariah and Joseph Nixon were the first two landowners, Ebenezer Patrick and Beebe Booth founded a newspaper among other enterprises, Benjamin Albertson was a medical doctor. Dr. Benjamin F. Trueblood, presumably a nephew of Nathan Trueblood, later became a prominent leader of the American Peace Society.[10]

The Salem Peace Society minutes document what is probably a representative experience for local peace societies of the period. The frequent pleas for funds and members in the *Friend of Peace* indicate that this was a general problem after the early heights of peace activity. Curti mentions that the *Friend of Peace* in 1825 "tried to explain the decline in interest" as a result of distance from "the evils of the struggle" of the War of 1812.[11] The reasons for the decline are no doubt many and varied, but the movement was sustained in the national organization, the American Peace Society. Although the impact of such local peace society efforts is almost impossible to determine, they at least "created an opinion favorable to peace and opposed to war."[12] The Salem Peace Society was a relatively small and now little remembered venture, but it demonstrates the spirit and motivation of men who desire peace and concord in the world.

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[8] *Friend of Peace,* II, vii, 11.

[9] Curti, *The American Peace Crusade, 1815-1860,* pp. 16-17.

[10] Stevens, *Centennial History of Washington County, Indiana,* 204-205, 383-85, 607. There is interesting biographical information and samples of B. F. Trueblood's thinking in Benjamin F. Trueblood, *The Development of the Peace Idea, and Other Essays* (Boston, 1932).

[11] Curti, *The American Peace Crusade, 1815-1860,* p. 24. See also Galpin, *Pioneering for Peace,* 28, 64-66.

[12] Galpin, *Pioneering for Peace,* 71.

in this country, besides the Massachusetts Peace Society, and its twelve Auxiliaries, 15 Peace Societies in the United States: one in Maine, one in Rhode Island, five in New York, one in North Carolina, five in Ohio, and two in Indiana."[8] Within the next few years other societies had been established in such diverse places as Connecticut, Vermont, Nova Scotia, Canada, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Scotland, Ireland, and France.

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[11] Curti, *The American Peace Crusade, 1815-1860,* p. 24. See also Galpin, *Pioneering for Peace,* 28, 64-66.

[12] Galpin, *Pioneering for Peace,* 71.

Salem (Indiana) Peace Society Minutes[1]

At a meeting of a number of the Citizens of Washington County State of Indiana, at Friends Meeting House at Blue River the 19th of the 12th Mo (December) 1818. After being met proceed to appoint Willis McCoy, Chairman, & Benjamin Albertson Secretary,—The Following Introductory Piece being produced was ordered to be Read—which is as follows (to Wit).

Some considerations on the Expendiency of the Institution of a Peace Society; Humbly offered to the serious attention of the Lovers of Peace, in the State of Indiana.

When our minds are turned seriously to veiw [*sic*] the direfull effects of war, whereby not only many thousands of souls have been precipitated into an awfull eternity, but innumerable sufferings and great calamity have been brought upon many who were Innocent; what man not devoid of the tender feelings of Humanity, or that hath any regard for religion or morality, who will not feel his mind Impressed with sorrow, in considering the deplorable condition of mankind so frequently engaged in destroying one another; and will he not be induced to Query, Shall the sword devour forever?[2]—Shall the situation of the human family in this respect never be meliorated?—Can there be no method adopted for the composing of differences & settling disputes between nations as well as Individuals, without recurring to weapons of death?—Is it impossible for the evil Passions in

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[1] In editing these minutes every effort has been made to represent as closely as possible the actual handwritten document, but printing has necessitated certain changes. Liberties in spacing have been taken with such items as the centering of headings, the use of double spacing to mark a new entry, paragraphing, and—with one exception—the setting of lists in series rather than in column. Elevated letters have been brought down to the line; obvious repetitions and flourishes have been omitted. Periods have been substituted for flourishes and other marks and added where necessary. Commas and semi-colons in series of arabic numbers and proper names have been standardized throughout. With regard to spelling, [*sic*] has been used only when spelling is inconsistent within the document or when there might be a question of an error in transcription or printing. Proper names have been allowed to stand even though spelling is inconsistent; correct spelling of names has not been given because reliable sources are lacking. The plural of words ending in "y" varies between "-ys" and "-ies;" the vowel sequence after "c" is consistently "-ie" (for example, "recieve"); and there are other non-standard spellings. Capitalization has presented many problems. Obvious capitals or lower case letters have been retained although they may be inconsistent with modern usage; but several letters are not distinguishable as capital or lower case: "c," "w," and "a" have definite capital forms, but the lower case form is used obviously as both capital and lower case; the same "s" and "y" are used for both capital and lower case in initial position. When there was a question of the writer's apparent intention because of inconsistencies within the document, modern usage was the final criterium for a decision. There has been no real attempt to identify the people mentioned except when pertinent information was readily available.

Xerox copies of the original minutes, which are in the possession of the Hobbs family of Plainfield, Indiana, were used in editing. Grateful acknowledgement is made to the family for permission to publish the material and to Professor Blake for first submitting it. The editor also thanks Miss Lulie Davis, Secretary of the Washington County Historical Society, and Miss Amy Hammersmith, Librarian of the Salem Public Library, for their help in preparing the document for publication.

[2] 2 Samuel 2.26. Although biblical allusions and quotations are often incomplete or slightly inaccurate, sources only have been provided throughout.

rational creatures, as covetuousness, Pride, envy, Hatred & revenge, to be subjugated so far, that the Spirit of Love & a Pacific disposition may Predominate. We have no doubt of the Possibility of this, but believe that were Individuals and Nations actuated by the pure principle of Love, they would be willing to use their Efforts for the promotion & encouragement of Peace on Earth & good will to men; that the occasions of war may be removed and the blessings of Peace enjoyed.

Now as it hath pleased the Almighty Superintendant of the universe to Illuminate the understandings of many (which we mention with reverence and Gratitude) whereby they see in a clear point of veiw [*sic*] the evils of war, and several Peace Societies have been recently formed of divers respectable citizens of the United States, in order to unite in laboring that Peace & Harmony may be preserved;—Therefore Fellow Citizens of this State, not only such as believe that all wars are contrary to the Precepts of the Gospel, but also those who think that offensive war only is wrong,[8] we desire your attention may be turned to this very Interesting Theme; and divesting ourselves of any Preposs[ess]ion to the contrary may Judiciously consider whether it doth not behove us to make a proper use of the present time of favor, wherein Prospects so animating, open with such conspicuity; and from a sincere desire that the welfare & happiness of the human Race may be promoted, to institute a Peace Society in this State, for purposes similar to those of others already organized. Can this be incompatible with sound Policy?—

Although those who engage in this good work, may meet with some opposition, yet those that are willing to be Instrumental according to their capacities under divine Providence, in diffusing a Pacific principle, & under a sense of duty, use their best Efforts that Love, Peace, & Harmony may prevail amongst mankind,—we believe such will recieve the reward of Peace in their own minds, and Participate of the Blessings granted to the Peace makers.

Of which the Meeting approves, & appoints Levi Munden, Willis McCoy, Samuel Lindley, Matthew Coffin, Joseph Moore, Nathan Truebloood, Robert Dennis, James White, Benjamin Albertson, William Hobbs, & Thomas Thornson to prepare a form of Constitution, for the Salem Indiana Peace Society & Produce to next meeting. On motion The meeting adjourns untill the 2nd seventh day in next month at the 12th Hour at the Court House in the Town of Salem, at which time & place all those who are friendly to the above institution are Invited to attend.

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[8] The stand on defensive war was a point of conflict among members of peace societies. Salem followed the Massachusetts society in its willingness to accept members who believed in defensive war. The New York and London societies excluded those who held this belief. Merle E. Curti, *The American Peace Crusade, 1815-1860* (Durham, 1929), 11-12.

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The Secretary is directed to have the above Published in the Salem Tocsin.[4]

By order

Benjn Albertson Secy

Salem (Indiana) January the 9th 1819

At a Meeting met agreeable to adjournment The Committee appointed at last meeting to prepare an Essay of Constitution for the Salem Indiana Peace Society, Produced the following (To Wit) Constitution of the Salem Indiana Peace Society,[5]—

We the subscribers in forming this Society, think proper to make the following concise declaration of our motives & objects.

Having been impressed by considering the manifold evils & tremendeous [*sic*] calamities of Public War; we earnestly wish that men may be brought to view it in a just light, clearly to see its sad influence, on the Political moral & religious of communities, and its opposition to the design & spirit of the Gospel; and that the true dignity and Happiness of a People result from Impartial Justice towards all Nations, and the Spirit & Virtues of Peace.

Various facts and considerations have conspired in exciting a hope, that a change may be effected in public sentiment, and a more happy state of society introduced.

We believe that a majority of the People in civilized countries, when free from party passions & prejudices, have such an aversion to public Hostilities, that they would rejoice if any plan could be devised which would both secure their rights and absolve them from the burthens & sufferings of war.

The late Treaty of Peace between Great Britain and the United States, has suggested the Practicability of such a plan, and given us an admirable lesson on the subject.

For this ray of Pacific light we are gratefull and hope it will be like "the shining light which shineth more & more unto the perfect day."[6] It is clear that every popular custom must depend on public opinion, and it

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[4] The *Tocsin* was the first newspaper published in Salem and the initial number was issued on March 17, 1818. The founders were Ebenezer Patrick and Beebe Booth. The *Tocsin* was sold after four volumes, ran until 1826 under new management and a new name, and then was purchased by Patrick and renamed the *Tocsin*. Warder W. Stevens, *Centennial History of Washington County Indiana* (Indianapolis, 1916), 383-87.

[5] The constitution is very closely modeled on that of the Massachusetts Peace Society which was published in the *Friend of Peace*, I, iv, 35-37. The Salem preamble has many passages identical with those of the Massachusetts preamble and the articles differ from those of Massachusetts only on a few points: several articles are altered by the Indiana society; an article concerning life membership is omitted; Article 5 is new; whereas Massachusetts specifies an annual meeting, Salem calls for a meeting every three months.

[6] Proverbs 4.18.

appears from History that many customs, which were formerly considered as honorable, usefull & even necessary, have since been abolished, as inhuman & Barbarous, and are now regarded with detestation & Horror.

The attention of the Europian [*sic*] Nations lately appears to be unusually excited to the guilt and miseries of war; and with Joy we learn that Peace Societies are Established on the other side of the atlantic, as well as in the United States,—a cooperation in different countries is joyfully anticipated in this great work of promoting peace on earth, and good will among men.

We Intend that this Society shall be established on such principles as to embrace the friends of Peace tho, they may differ in sentiment on the question, whether war be not in all cases Prohibited by the Gospel, and may also differ in opinion on other subjects.

We wish to promote the cause of peace by methods which all Christians must approve;—by exhibiting with clearness the pacific nature of the Gospel, and by turning the attention of the community to the nature, spirit, causes & effects of war,—we hope that by the concurrence of the friends of Peace in all Nations, and by the gradual Illumination of the Christian world, a Pacific spirit may be communicated to Governments;—And that in this way under the divine Blessing, the occasions of war, and the belief of its necessity will be constantly diminishing till it shall be regarded by all Christians with the same horror, with which we now look back, on the exploded & barbarous customs of former ages.

On these principles, and with these hopes we adopt the following articles.

Article, 1st The name of this Society shall be the Salem (Indiana) Peace Society.

" 2nd The Government of this Society shall consist, of a President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and six Trustees, who shall be annually Chosen, Three of whom shall constitute a quorum.

" 3rd The funds of this Society shall be under the direction of the officers, to be employed for the diffusion of Light on the subject of war & in cultivating the Principles & Spirit of Peace; The officers shall have Power to appoint an Executive Committee and Counsellars [*sic*] to advise with the Corresponding Secretary & to make regulations for the dispatch of business.

Article 4th No book or tract shall be published without its being approved by a majority of the members present at a Quarterly or annual Meeting.

" 5th Each subscriber of one Dollar annually shall be a member.

" 6th All donations to the Society shall be Recorded; and each member of the Society may recieve one half his annual subscriptions in such books or tracts as the officers shall approve, and at the lowest prices of the Society.

" 7th The Society shall meet once in every three months and may be convened by order of the President at other times, when the officers shall deem it necessary; and reports shall be made to the Society by the Trustees & Treasurer annually on the 2nd Saturday of the first month in each year; and in case of the absence of the President at any meeting of the Society, the members present shall have power to choose another to officiate as President Pro. Tempore.

" 8th This Society will encourage the forming of similar societies, in other places by the dispersion of tracts, by correspondences, and by other suitable means; they will also encourage mutual aid and cooperation among all the friends of Peace of every denomination.

Article 9th Any body of men ten or upwards in number, living too remote to attend our Quarterly Meeting may be a branch of this by representing the state of theirs to this annually.

" 10th No Change in the objects of the Society shall ever be made; but the articles may be amended and new articles may be added as occasion shall require; provided that no alteration be made except at their regular annual meeting, and by the consent of two thirds of the members who may be then present.

Signed on behalf of the committee

By Benjn Albertson Clk

Which after being repeatedly & deliberately Read was approved of, and the following Persons subscribe their names as members thereof.

Matthew Coffin
Levi Munden
David Denny
Samuel Lindl[e]y
Zachariah Nixon
Jessee Stanley
John Brassleton
Joel Brown
John S Chawner
James Trueblood Senr
Micah Newby
Henry Wilson
William R Denny
Joshua Trueblood
Toms White
William Hobbs
William Trueblood
Benoni Morris
Joseph Moore
John Cox
Thomas Lindley Junr
William Lindley Senr
James Denny
James R Higgins
Caleb White
James Coffin
Robert Dennis
Joshua Crow

Jehosaphat Morris
Nathan Trueblood
Willis McCoy
Benjamin Albertson
William Hodgin
Elisha Hobbs
Aaron Morris
Joshua Tatlock
James White
Ebenezer Patrick
Jacob Cox
Miles Tatlock
Jonathan Lyon
Elijah Rawley
Beebee Booth
John Arnold
Thomas Saint
Burr Bradley
Aaron Cox
Joseph Nixon
Thomas Lindley L Creek[7]

Who after being called together proceed to appoint, Beebee Booth, President; Nathan Trueblood, Treasurer; Benjamin Albertson, Recording Secretary; & Burr Bradley, Corresponding Secretary;—Matthew Coffin, David Denny, William Hobbs, Jonathan Lyon, Samuel Lindley, & Zachariah Nixon Trustees. Ordered that the Treasurer Procure suitable Blank Books for the Recording Secretary & for himself.

Ordered that the Corresponding Secretary have this Meeting Minutes, published in the Salem Tocsin together with two Hundred Copies of our Constitution printed in Hand Bills.

The Meeting adjourns untill the 2nd Saturday in April Next at the 12th Hour at the Court House in the Town of Salem.

Order,d that the Recording Secretary have Published the time of the setting of next Meeting in the Salem Tocsin two weeks previous thereto.

Salem the 30th of January 1819

At a meeting of the officers of the Salem Indiana Peace Society, ordered that the Recording Secretary give information to the Corresponding Secretary that this meeting directs him to write to all the Peace Societies within his knowledge as also any other societies of any kind which we deem friendly to our Institution, and procure copies of all the numbers of the friends of peace over & above the first Eight numbers, & also obtain any other Books or tracts or information otherwise usefull for us.

This meeting adjourns untill the next Emergency.

[7] "L Creek" probably refers to Lick Creek which was approximately twenty miles from Salem. Quakers from the Blue River and Lick Creek Monthly Meetings were closely associated according to information in B.C. Hobbs, *Autobiography of William Hobbs* (Indiana Quaker Records, Indianapolis, 1962), 8-11.

Salem (Indiana) April 10th 1819

The Society met agreeable to adjournment.

Report says all orders passed at last meeting are complied with.

A Code of By Laws being produced for this Society, were Read & approved by the members present, (to Wit) Matthew Coffin, Levi Munden, David Denny, Samuel Lindley, William Hobbs, Joseph Moore, Joel Brown, James Trueblood Senr, Joshua Trueblood, Jehosaphat Morris, Nathan Trueblood, Benjamin Albertson, Aaron Morris, Jonathan Lyon, Elijah Rawley, Beebee Boothe, Thomas Saint, Burr Bradley, Joseph Nixon, James R Higgins, Caleb White, & Benjn Overman, which were ordered to be Recorded & are as follows.

By Laws of the Salem Indiana Peace Society

Article 1st Our meetings shall be held open for all who behave orderly to attend, though none Except members shall be permitted to speak without leave of the meeting.

2nd The President shall be the Speaker & may debate but have no vote, except when a tie, in which case he shall give the casting vote; he shall call to order when decorum is not observed, and shall sign all writings that go from the Society with one or the other Secretarys.

3rd The Recording Secretary shall make entrys and keep Records of all business the Society shall direct. The Corresponding Secretary shall keep Copies of all letters that he sends to other societies, and file them together with all he recieves from them with the Recording Secretary.

4th The Trustees shall make moderate compensation to the secretaries for their trouble & expences.

5th When any person is about to speak he shall Rise on his feet and address the Speaker, neither shall but one speak at a time, and no one shall speak more than thrice to one subject, without leave from the meeting.

6th When a motion is made & seconded it shall be put to vote, and a majority shall decide it.

7th The Hour appointed to meet at shall be strictly observed, at which time the President shall take his seat and the Clerk proceed to business.

On motion it was ordered that Levi Munden, William Hobbs, & Benjamin Albertson, be appointed a committee to draft our motives & intentions as a Society & p[r]oduce to next meeting.

Ordered that the Secretary have our by Laws & the proceedings of the day published in the Tocsin,—also the time of the setting of next meeting two weeks previous thereto.

On motion the meeting adjourns untill the 2nd Saturday in July next at the 2 Hour in the afternoon, at the Court House in the town of Salem.

Salem July 10th 1819

At a meeting of the Salem (Indiana) Peace Society

The President being absent William Hobbs was called to the Chair as President Pro. Tem.

The Committee appointed last meeting produced a draft of our motives & objects as a Society which was read approved ordered to be recorded & Published in the Salem Tocsin (to Wit.)

A solemn declaration of the members of the Salem (Indiana) Peace Society, containing an explication of their motives & objects in forming this association.

The Institution of Peace Societies being of recent date, we are apprehensive, that some of our fellow Citizens, for want of more explicit information; may, from a cursory view of such an association concieve it to be a Phenomenon; and being moved with fear (that intellectual tyrant, to which mankind are too apt to be subservient) have brought this unpopular [topic?] before their own mental tribunal, and precipitately given Judgment against it, without hearing the evidence; however we hope they have the discretion not to adopt any measures discordant with the counsel of the wise doctor Gamaliel to the Jewish Sanhedrim [*sic*], the purport of which was,— If that counsel or work were of men it would come to nought (as had been the case in divers instances) but if its origin was of the divine power, the might of man could not overthrow it; therefore he advised, to let those men alone, lest perhaps they (that is the persecutors) should be found even opposing omnipotence.[8]

We deem it expedient to announce to the public, a succinct but unequivical delineation of the motives of our Institution; also the object we have in view, and the means we are engaged to use.

We solemly [*sic*] declare, that in this case we are free from any private sinister or selfish view; but being impressed with a deep conviction that there is a great deviation from the spirit of Christianity, which is a spirit of mercy, peace and kind affection; and being sorrowfully affected by the accumulated miseries & great desolations which war has spread over the fairest, most fruitfull and enlightened regions of the earth; and at the same time encouraged by many decisive proofs of the revival of Purer & more benevolent principles among Christian nations, we have formed this association, with the solemn & deliberate purpose of cooperating with the Philanthropists, of this and other Countries, in endeavoring to promote the cause of peace & Charity; that war may be stripped of its false glory, and different communities may be united in the bonds of amity & mutual good will. We are sensible that this object is chiefly to be accomplished by a silent and gradual influence on the minds of men; accordingly we intend to limit our operations to the circulation of usefull Treatises in which the Pacific spirit of religion

[8] Acts 5.34-39.

has been exhibited with clearness, & we hope with success.—In using these means it becomes necessary for the Society to have some funds, which are to be employed for the diffusion of light on the subject of war, and in the cultivating the principles and spirit of peace, agreeably to the Constitution we have adopted.—On this subject we belong to no sect, no party. As lovers of our Country, as friends of mankind with the spirit of peace in our breasts and with a deep impression of the miseries of war, we are solicitous that the Effusion of human blood by human hands may be prevented, and that men may be recalled to the conviction that they are brethren.—On the same principles & for the same benevolent purposes peace societies are established in several of the United States; also several are formed in great Britain.—These societies with the many others[9] which are in existence for pious & humane purposes, it is believed may be auxillary to each other, in promoting the cause of humanity, and in diffusing the principles of love, peace and amity, so essential to the true happiness of mankind.—Among the members of the Massachusetts Peace Society there are many respectable Characters, of which there are ninety six ministers of the Gospel of different denominations, the Prince Galitzin of Russia, and Thomas Jefferson of Virginia (former President of the United States.)[10]—Further we are authorized to state, that several of the illustrious powers of europe have united in a solemn league, wherein they declare before "the universe their unwavering determination to adopt for the only rule of their conduct, both in the administration of their respective states, & in their political relation with every other Government, the precepts of Christianity, the precepts of Justice, of Charity and Peace."[11]

These facts, with others which are apparent, indicate that, through the interposition of divine Providence, the influence of the Gospel of Peace is progressing amongst men in various stations, & in different parts of the

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[9] Curti discusses the peace movement as a "part of a general humanitarian development" which found direction in the "general disgust with the train of social woes which came with the wars." Organizations were formed for temperance, antislavery, prison reform, the mentally ill, and the physically disabled. See Curti, *The American Peace Crusade, 1815-1860*, pp. 18-20, and references given there.

[10] Prince Alexander Galitzin of Russia became an honorary member of the Massachusetts Peace Society as the result of some correspondence with that society. Correspondence between the society and the Prince and Emperor Alexander of Russia is printed in the *Friend of Peace*, I, x, 24-27. Correspondence from Thomas Jefferson is also printed, *ibid.*, I, xi, 24-25.

[11] The quotation is probably taken from a newspaper account of the formation of the Holy Alliance which was signed in 1815 by the leaders of Austria, Russia, and Prussia. The pertinent portion of the preamble of the Act of the Holy Alliance states: "They solemnly declare that the present Act has no other object than to publish, in the face of the whole world, their fixed resolution, both in the administration of their respective States, and in their political relations with every other Government, to take for their sole guide the precepts of that Holy Religion, namely, the precepts of Justice, Christian Charity and Peace, which, far from being applicable only to private concerns must have an immediate influence upon the counsels of Princes, and guide all their steps, as being the only means of consolidating human institutions and remedying their imperfections." Walter T. Phillips, *The Confederation of Europe* (London, 1914), 301. The preface was reprinted in the *Friend of Peace*, I, x, 18, in late 1817 or early 1818.

world; and we are induced to hope, that, by the well directed efforts of the friends of peace under the blessing of Heaven, a Change in public sentiment may be effected, which shall become conspicuous in the moral conduct of Governments to the dereliction of war & violence, and the establishment of peace on earth and good will to our fellow Creatures.—All sanguinary customs, Hostile passions, violence, war & revenge, are evidently incompatible with the precepts of the Messiah, who came not to destroy mens lives but to save them[12]—therefore we are solicitous that all who assume the character of Christians, may by their conduct evince, that in meekness & love, they are true followers of him, whom we acknowledge to be the author of our faith; and in particular that the ministers of the Gospel of every religious denomination (whose influence with the members of the community is so universally acknowledged) may through divine aid be Preachers of Righteousness, both by precept & example, and ministers of peace by Jesus Christ; solemnly considering the importance of their vocation, and remembering their responsibility, they may avoid that glaring inconsistency of holding forth the design of the Gospel for the salvation of repenting sinners, and yet encourage a spirit of war, diametrically opposite to the spirit of the Gospel, which is that of love, peace and harmony.

William Hobbs, President Pro. Tem.
Benjn Albertson Rec. Secy

The meeting adjourns untill the 2nd Saturday of October next at 2, o clock P.M. which the Secretary is directed to have published in the Salem Tocsin two weeks previous thereto.

Salem October the 9th 1819

At a meeting of the Salem (Indiana) Peace Society

Recd by the hands of the Corresponding Secretary from the Massachusetts & Warren County Ohio Peace Societys a form of memorial to Congress.[13] David Denny & Benjamin Albertson are appointed to obtain subscribers thereto & forward the same to Congress or to Docr Canby[14] of Lebanon.

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[12] Luke 9.56.

[13] In the spring of 1819 the Massachusetts Peace Society began circulating a petition in Boston and vicinity to be sent as a memorial to Congress. The petition asked Congress to abolish privateering which was considered a violation of Christian rights. There were many such memorials sent to Congress in the next few years, including one from "certain citizens of Ohio" in late December, 1819. Presumably, the Ohio memorial is here referred to. W. Freeman Galpin, *Pioneering for Peace* (Syracuse, 1933), 31-32.

[14] "Dr. Joseph Canby practiced medicine in Warren County as early as 1810. He practiced at Lebanon for twenty years. His name occurs in five different acts of the Legislature among the censors appointed for the examination of applicants for license to practice medicine." In April, 1814, he is listed as a member of the first Board of Directors for the Lebanon Miami Banking Company. J. Morrow, *The History of Warren County, Ohio* (Chicago, 1882), 466-68.

Also recieved from the Massachusetts Peace Society five numbers of the friends of Peace, 13, 14, 15, 16, & 17, likewise their constitution & annual report accompanied by letters of correspondence &c &c.

Also from Warren Ohio Peace Society their annual report & constitution & letters of correspondence &c &c.

Salem (Indiana) October 22nd 1819

At a meeting of the officers of the Salem (Indiana) Peace Society.

Ordered that the Treasurer Purchase 50 copies of the 2nd 4 numbers of the friends of Peace, William Hobbs & David Denny are appointed to distribute the same.

Ordered that the Corresponding Secretary inform the Ohio Peace Society that if they publish 9, 10, 11, & 12 of the Friend of Peace that we agree to take 150 copys.

William Hobbs & Mathew Coffin are appointed to prepare an annual report & produce to next meeting of the Society.

This meeting adjourns untill the next immergency [*sic*].

Salem January the 8th 1820.

At a meeting of the Salem Indiana Peace Society.

The committee appointed produced an annual report (to Wit) First report of the Trustees of the Salem (Inda) Peace Society made at their annual meeting the 8th of January 1820.

It being expected of us to render some account at this time, of our proceedings since our appointment, in respect to our exertions in the aplication of the means proposed by the Society, for the advancing of the good cause for which we are associated and also some information of our prospects; this duty we freely perform as far as is within the sphere of our capacity.—We have attended to the important part of the service we have been entrusted with; but the funds of the Society being small when compared with their object, much more cannot reasonably be expected than evidence of fidelity in the use of such means as have been at our disposal, and to exhibit such facts as may be adapted to excite more liberal Patronage & more powerfull exertions.—We have purchased 50 copies of the 2nd 4 Numbers of the friend of Peace, which have been distributed amongst the members of the Society, and the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the Supreme Judges of this State,[15] to each a copy, and some have been sent into Kentucky; a number of copies of the constitution of our Society also a concise declaration of our motives & object in thus associating have been published.—The expences

[15] The governor was Jonathan Jennings, first governor of the State of Indiana; Ratliff Boon was lieutenant governor; the supreme judges were Jesse Holman, James Scott, and Isaac Blackford.

of these together with postage of letters and pamphlets recieved by our Corresponding Secretary in behalf of the Society have taken considerable of the money which was in fund, yet a small ballance [*sic*] remains in the hands of the Treasurer.— Although we consider all that we have yet been able to effect, but a little compared with what our brethren, the friends of peace have done in several others of the United States, and also in Great Britain, yet we hope that none who devote their service to this precious cause will lose their reward of inward peace.

By accounts recieved from other peace societies, the prospect is very encouraging; those which have been associated a considerable time, are still increasing, and new peace societies forming, one of which has lately been formed in Raliegh [*sic*] North Carolina, divers of the members whereof are said to be very respectable characters, also one lately formed at Honey Creek [ ][16] County in this State.—Numerous publications have been exhibited on both sides of the atlantic, adopted to the disseminating of the principles of peace on Earth and good will to men; which there is reason to believe have much attracted public attention.—In an extract from a letter of an Intelligent Writer[17] appears the following remark— "The unreasonable and unchristian custom of war, was perhaps never so generally a subject of consideration as at the present time, and it should seem that Intelligent & accountable beings, have only to examine the question fairly, to become the friends of peace.—["] In this view we may be encouraged to hope that from the standard of strife & misery, not only Individuals but Nations will flee, to rally under the Banner of good will and love.

We believe there are many respectable citizens who have not yet taken an active part in this work that are well wishers to the cause; and we trust, as the Illuminating influence of the Gospel of Peace shall more generally spread and prevail amongst mankind, that the doubts which many have entertained of success, will vanish in the bosom of evidence, and that they will see it in a clear point of view, to be their duty to lend their aid toward the advancement of so good a cause.—One Publication[18] in opposition to the object of peace societies has appeared; but the author had not the confidence to expose his proper name, and his assertions were so erronius [*sic*] & false, and so evidently exhibited his confusion, that we did not deem it worthy of a particular answer.— From accounts well authenticated, it appears, that notwithstanding the opposition arising from the prejudices of education &

[16] The document has left space for information that was never added. Presumably this is Honey Creek Township in Vigo County. H. C. Bradsby, *History of Vigo County, Indiana* (Chicago, 1891), 647. The *Friend of Peace,* II, vi, 39, reports the formation of a peace society in Vigo County, Indiana. Another society in Wayne County, Indiana, called the Whitewater Indiana Peace Society, was reported in the *Friend of Peace,* II, vii, 37.

[17] Neither the writer nor the source of the quotation has been identified.

[18] There were actually many criticisms in newspapers from 1817 to 1826, and several pamphlets had also been published against peace societies. See Galpin, *Pioneering for Peace,* 28-30. The particular publication referred to here has not been determined. Possibly it was a local criticism in view of the context.

custom the prospect is very animating.—We are informed there are two peace societies in London, with a considerable number of auxillaries in different parts of the Kingdom, also one in Scotland and that they have published many Thousands of tracts on the subject of universal peace, some of which have been translated into the German language.—There are many peace societies organized in the United States and yet increase.— To these may be added a conference of the methodist reformed Church in the State of New York, which has assumed the character of a peace society.[19]

Bible societies which have for their object to place in the hands of the poor and the destitute the Blessed instructions of the Gospel; we consider this to be conducive to the great end which we propose, that of disseminating the principle of love and peace which the doctrines of the Gospel inculcate.— Now let the friends of peace be encouraged to persevere in this good work; for we believe that the spirit of the Gospel which is that of ["] peace on earth, good will toward men,"[20] by the blessing and kind providence of him who is the infinite source of pure love (without whose aid the effects of men are ineffectual) will more & more spread & prevail to the completion of those ancient Prophecies, "He shall Judge among the Nations & shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into Plough shares, and their spears into pruning Hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against Nation, neither shall they learn war any more," Isaiah II.4, Micah IV.3.

We have no doubt of the accomplishment of this for the word of Jehovah is ever sure.

Which was read approved and 500 Copies directed to be printed together with the constitution in form of a Pamphlet. Doctor B. Bradley & William Hobbs are appointed to attend that service.

The Treasurer produced a report which was satisfactory.

The bye [*sic*] Laws being revised were approved and appear as follows[21]—to Wit,—

1st Our meetings shall be held open for all who behave orderly to attend, tho, none except members shall be permitted to speak without leave of the meeting.

2nd The President shall be Speaker & may debate but have no vote except when a tie, in which case he shall give the casting vote, he shall call to order when decorum is not observed & sign all writing going forth from our Quarterly or annual meetings with the recording secretary and at the request of any one of the Trustees he shall call a meeting of the officers.

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[19] The declaration of the conference of the Methodist Reformed Church is printed in the *Friend of Peace*, II, ii, 33-35. It has not been examined by the editor.

[20] Luke 2.14.

[21] The revisions in the bylaws are minor and usually consist of changes in wording. The major addition is a provision for a president pro tempore in the seventh article.

3rd The Recording Secretary shall make entrys & keep records of all business the Society may direct, the Corresponding Secretary shall keep copys of all letters sent by him to other societies & keep a regular file of them with those he recieves, for the inspection of the Trustees.

4th The Trustees shall make moderate compensation to the secretaries for their trouble & expence.

5th When any person is about to speak he shall rise on his feet & address the Speaker; neither shall but one speak at a time, & no one shall speak more than thrice to one subject, without leave of the meeting.

6th When a motion is made & seconded & a proper time allowed for debate it shall be put to vote & a majority shall always carry.

7th The hour appointed to meet shall be strictly observed, at which time the President if there shall take his seat (& the Secretary proceed to business) but if not present the Secretary shall open the meeting after which they shall choose a President Pro. tem.

At an Election of Officers the following were chosen for the present or ensuing year (to Wit) Beebee Boothe, President; Nathan Trueblood, Treasurer; Benjamin Albertson, Recording Secretary; Burr Bradley, Corresponding Secretary; Mathew Coffin, David Denny, William Hobbs, Jonathan Lyon, Samuel Lindley, & Zachariah Nixon Trustees.

Previous to this meeting the following additional persons were recieved members of this Society (to Wit) William Cox, William Reddick, Solomon Reddick, Benjamin Overman, John Oneal, Isaac Hollinsworth, Samuel Price, & John Bray.

Salem April the 8th 1820

At a meeting of the Salem Indiana Peace Society.

The Committee appointed to have 500 copies of the annual report & constitution printed report its compiled with. The Trustees & other officers of the Society are directed to distribute them among the members of the Society & els[e]where as they may deem proper.

Salem July the 8th 1820

At a meeting of the Salem (Ina) Peace Society.

Ordered that the Secretary have published in the Tocsin one month previous to next meeting, a request for the members generally to attend at next meeting pay in their annual enstalments [*sic*], & recieve such Books & pamphlets as they are entitled too [*sic*].

Salem October the 14th 1820

At a meeting of the Salem (Indiana) Peace Society

Ordered that Samuel Lindley & Elisha Hobbs be appointed collectors for the Society & that the Treasurer be directed to furnish them with a list of the members & the respective sums due by each.

Salem January the 13th 1821

At a meeting of the Salem (Ina) Peace Society.

The President being absent David Denny was appointed President Pro. tem.

The Treasurer produced an account which is as follows—(viz) The accounts with the Treasurer stands nearly as they did last year there has been little or nothing recieved or paid out.

The Trustees produced an annual report which was satisfactory.

On motion it was ordered that the 4th & 5th articles of the constitution of this Society be struck out & also that the following be inserted in the place & stead of the 7th article (now the 5th) (to Wit) 5th There shall be an annual meeting of the Society on the 2nd Saturday of May in ea[ch] year, at which time the trustees & Treasurer shall make report, and the Society may be convened at other times by order of the President when the officers of the Society may deem it necessary, and in case of the absence of the President at any of our meetings the members present shall have power to choose one to act as President Pro. tem.[22]

The next meeting (which is to be the annual meeting hereafter) to be held at Salem the 2nd Saturday of next May at 2, o clock PM.

The meeting adjourns accordin[g]ly.

Salem Indiana May the 12th 1821

The President being absent, Samuel Lindley was called to the Chair to act as President Protem.

The following were Elected officers for the ensuing year, (viz) David Denny, President; Henry Wilson, Treasurer; Docr Burr Bradley, Cor. Secretary; B. Albertson, Rec. Secretary; James White, William Hobbs, Toms White, Nathan Trueblood, Zachariah Nixon, and James Trueblood Trustees.

On motion Toms White was appointed assistant to the Treasurer to collect what Money may be due and also to collect what may be subscribed by free contribution & report.

The Meeting adjourns untill next in course (viz) the 2nd Saturday of next May at 2 o clock PM.

Salem Indiana May the 10th 1822

Report says collections of funds &c agreeable to appointment are of small amount.

The Trustees produced an annual report which was read &c.

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[22] The action removes the necessity for approval of published materials by members (No. 4) and drops the requirement of an annual one dollar subscription for membership (No. 5). The meeting once every three months (No. 7) has been replaced by an annual meeting (new No. 5). Subsequent entries indicate that a fifty cents tax replaced the subscription.

John Cox is appointed to inform the Treasurer that its his duty to give a reason for not reporting to this Meeting agreeable to constitution & also to report to next annual Meeting.

The following officers are Elected for the ensuing year (to Wit) David Denny, President; Henry Wilson, Treasurer; Burr Bradley, Cor. Secretary; Benjn Albertson, Rec Secretary; Micah Newby, William Hobbs, Toms White, Nathan Trueblood, Benoni Morris, & Zachariah Nixon Trustees.

The Meeting adjourns untill the 2nd Saturday of Next May at 2, o clock P.M.

Salem Indiana May 10th 1823

At the annual Meeting of the Salem Ia Peace Society

The Treasurer reports the papers were not in his possession at last meeting & therefore no funds in his hands at this time.

The Trustees produced an annual report which was read & recieved.

On motion it was recommended that the officers & other members of this Society as many as feel a freedom so to do, to open free subscriptions to raise funds in order to publish & circulate some tracts in possession of this Society & for other uses, and also that the members of this Society be requested to pay into the hands of the Treasurer a Tax of Fifty cents (ea) for the same purposes.

Recieved & Read to satisfaction the 5th annual report of the Ohio peace society accompanied by a letter from their Cor. Secretary.

On motion William Hobbs & Henry Wilson are a committee appointed to place in the Salem Library one of the copys of the numbers of the friends of Peace & see that the other copys are in the hands of the Corresponding Secretary & report to next meeting.

The following members were Elected officers for the ensuing year—(To Wit) David Denny, President; Henry Wilson, Treasurer; Benjn Albertson, Rec. Secretary; Burr Bradley, Cor. Secretary; Micah Newby, William Hobbs, Toms White, Nathan Trueblood, Benoni Morris, & Joseph Moore Trustees.

The meeting adjourns untill 2nd Saturday of next May at 2, o clock P.M.

Salem Indiana May 10th 1824

At the annual Meeting of the Salem Indiana Peace Society.

The President being absent Nathan Trueblood was called to the chair to act as President Pro. tem.

The committee appointed to place in the Salem Library one copy of the friend of Peace, report its not fully complied with that committee is continued & to report to a future meeting of this Society.

It appears by the Treasurers report that this Society is now behind in payt of demands about seven Dollars, the members are still desired to pay

in the tax of Fifty cents each agrecable to last years request to meet the present demands & for publishing the Pamphlets as proposed at last annual Meeting.

The Trustees produced an annual report which was satisfactory.

The following officers were Elected for the ensuing year—(To Wit) David Denny, President; Henry Wilson, Treasurer; Benjn Albertson, Rec. Secretary; Burr Bradley, Cor. Secretary; Willis McCoy, Micah Newby, William Hobbs, Toms White, Nathan Trueblood, & Joseph Moore Trustees.

The meeting adjourns untill the 2nd Saturday of next May 2, o clock P.M.

Salem Indiana May 14th 1825

The annual meeting of the Salem Ina Peace Society not being general by reason of unfavorable weather.

Therefore some members met in May 1826 & adjourned to the 15th July 2, o'clock P.M. in order that notice might be given of the annual on that day.

Salem Indiana July 15th 1826

At a meeting of the Salem Indiana Peace Society.

The following officers were Elected for the present year (Namely) David Denny, President; Henry Wilson, Treasurer; Benjn Albertson, Rec. Secretary; Burr Bradley, Cor. [Secretary];[23] Micah Newby, William Hobbs, Toms White, Nathan Trueblood, Joseph Moore, & Benoni Morris Trustees.

Ordered that every member paying in one Dollar annually shall be entitled to four numbers of the friend of Peace, the amount of money or Books obtained thereby over & above 4 numbers to belong to the Society for distribution. William Hobbs is appointed to recieve subscriptions of s[ai]d money.

A meeting of the officers ordered 1st monday in augt.

The general meeting adjourns to the 2nd saturday of may next at 2, o'clock PM.

Appendix

The four annual reports of the Salem Peace Society which follow were received after the preceding document was set in type; therefore, they have been added in the form of an appendix. Editing has been done from xerox

[23] The document has this list in column and has under "Rec. Secretary" what appears to be "do" for "ditto."

copies of the handwritten documents, which are in the collection[1] of the Washington County Historical Society, Salem, Indiana. They originally belonged to C. M. Hobbs of Plainfield, Indiana, and were made available for publication by Miss Lulie Davis, Secretary of the Society.

Essentially the editorial practices used for the minutes have been maintained with these reports. Differences necessitated by distinctive changes in the writing style are noted for the individual reports. Although the spelling in the first and last reports printed here is poor and inconsistent, all of the reports have been reproduced verbatim. When there is a question regarding the transcription of a word, a bracketed question mark has been inserted. The headings for the reports in all cases are located on an outer fold; they have been positioned initially here for the convenience of the reader.

2nd Annual Report[2]

The Second Anuel report of the trustees of the Salem Indiana peace Society

The funds of the Society has not enabled your comittee to make any publications the pas year tho we have reason to believe the reason of the delinquency of Subscribers is oweing to the scarcity of money and not to a disposition in them to desert so noble a cause as that of peace on earth and good will to man this principle we believe is gaining ground among us & by accounts received from other peace Society it is spreading fast both in Europe and america there has been Many tracks distributed[?] in England and a daily increase of members to the Society in london and Several new ones formed & by the last report of the Masachusetz peace Society it appears they have increased considerably in the course of last year as well as Road Island & New york & since last year there has been a respectable Society formed in Wain County in this state which make three now in our state. we hope therefore under these encouriaging prospects that we Shall still press forward against all the oposition that may be raised throug prejudice and long custom let us recollect that our cause is the principle of the Gospel and will stand byond the grave

I propose that the fourth & 5th articles of the constitution be araced[?] instead of the Seventh article adopt as follows.

There shall be one anuel Meeting of the society on the 2nd Saterday of May in each year at which time the trustees & treasurer shall make report

[1] Miss Lulie Davis reports that the following additional items regarding the Salem Peace Society are in the collection: an issue of the *Tocsin* containing notice of the first public meeting; one page regarding the December, 1818, meeting; the declaration of the society from July, 1819; the printed constitution; the first annual report; data from meetings in May, 1822, December, 1829, and April, 1830; several miscellaneous letters; and newspaper clippings from 1912 and 1921 about the society.

[2] This report is referred to in the entry for January 13, 1821, on page 316. The writer's capitalization is clear although not regular, and no changes have been made. There has been no attempt to introduce punctuation other than the few original marks; but spaces have been left, where it seemed advisable, to increase readability.

to[?] and they may be convened[?] at other times by order of the pesident when the oficers of the Society may deem it necesary & in case of the absence of the president at any of our Meeting the members present shall have power to chose one to act as president protempore

4 annual report of the S. I. P. S.
made the 10th of 5th mo. (May) 1823[3]

The fourth annual report of the Salem Inda P. S.

The Trustees are aware of the trust which this Society have reposed in them, that by the Constitution they are bound to make annual reports to this meeting.

Although not much can be said to have been done the past year for want of sufficient funds, yet we hope & believe that by the circulation of the numbers of the friend of peace & some other tracts in our Possession as also by the examplary conduct & conversation of some of the members of this Society, that the prejudice formerly existing in the minds of the opponents to this Society have been removed or very much diminished, which evinces a growth in the good cause of peace

Therefore for the farther information & encouragement to the members of this Society we Recommend them to the Seventh annual report of the M.P.S.

We would also recommend to this meeting to consider the propriety of laying a small Tax on the members in order to enable the officers the ensuing year to publish some valuable tracts now in their Possession to distribute amongst the members circulation

Which we submit to the meeting.

5th Annual report of the S. Ia P. Society
May 8th 1824[4]

Agreeable to the Constitution of this Society the present annual Meeting will consequently expect some report from the Trustees.

We regret that but little have been done the past year by this Society, owing in part to a deficiency of funds in this time of pressure yet we have a lively hope, grounded on information from annual reports recieved from Peace Societies in other states that the cause is gaining ground & that several new Peace institutions have recently been formed, also that Pacific principles gain ground in some parts of Europe, and since the formation of this Society we have cause to believe the minds of many (in the vicinity of this place) have been wholly changed in favr of Pacific principles.

[3] This report is referred to on page 317. The handwriting appears to be identical to that of the minutes in this report and in the fifth annual report which follows.

[4] This report is referred to on page 318. The discrepancy in the date is unexplained.

still forming. Severall in the New England States and one in orange County N. Carolina we have also latly heared of a peace Society formed in Owen County in this state which proposes to become auxilery to ours. It also appears by the tenth Anuel report of the London peace Society that they are doing much for the advancment of the cause. they have forty nine auxileries. and dureing the last year had destributed 31750 tracts. there is also a peace Society in Ireland called the Hibernion peace Society Several have also been formed in Noviscotia & in Canaday there is also a society in France called the Society of Christian Morals enbracing several objects one of which is the abolition of war.

Thus we see that with in twelve years more than one hundred peace Societyes have been formed in Urope & America which are doing much in almost every country where the Christian Religion has been embraced. & there can be no doubt but as the dictates of Christianity is attended too it will intirely erradicate the Spirrit of war.

We may also observe with Satisfaction the Manumition Society of N Carolina is spreading fast. at their General asociation in March last there appeared representatives from more than forty branches making in all more than two thousand members some of which are of the first order of tallants in the state. If the influence of the Gospel when given way too does open the eyes of men who have been blinded by education & Interest to see the unjustness of holding their fellow beings in Slavary why not believe that peace Societies may also by divine aid be mad useful in opening the eyes of mankind to see the inconsistency of Christians encouriaging the Spirrit of war which is so disolating not only to the morrals but the lives and hapiness of each other.

We would therefore invite all the members of the Salem Indiana peace Society to more deligunce in the cause in which they are engaged remembering that we and all we possess are at the desposal of the divine Master let us then be willing to contribute a portion of what he has given us to his Service

At a meeting of the Salem Indiana Peace Society held the 12th of may 1827

The trustees of the Society Produced a Satisfactory report which was ordered to be published

The following oficers were elected for the ensuing year David Denney, President; Henry Wilson, Treasurer; Benjamin Alberson, R Secretary; Burr Bradley, Cor Secretary; Micah Newby, Wm Hobbs, Nathan Trublood, Toms White, Zachariah Nixon, John Cox Trustees